

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND KATHRYN BARGER

June 22, 2021

Safely Accessing the San Gabriel Mountains

The Angeles National Forest offers a wealth of recreational resources for our communities. Located primarily in the San Gabriel Mountains just north of the San Gabriel Valley, the Forest is just minutes away from many park-poor communities, making it a precious resource for underserved residents. In 2020, the country's National Parks saw 237 million visitors – down 28% from the previous year. However, while the overall number of visitors dropped, 15 National Parks actually saw recreation visitation records during the pandemic. This is consistent with the usage of many parks, open spaces, and trails in Los Angeles County, including the Angeles National Forest which saw significant increases in visits this past year. This increased usage demonstrates that access to parks during the pandemic has been critical, and Los Angeles County residents should be able to travel to and from the San Gabriel Mountains safely and without incident. Even with a 13.2% reduction in vehicle miles driven, 2020 was the deadliest year for traffic crashes in

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

the United States in over a decade with 38,680 fatalities according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Drivers have become more negligent and the County must respond accordingly. The Department of Public Works should explore ways to mitigate the dangers of reckless driving especially for those that are accessing the Angeles National Forest through the winding roads of the San Gabriel Mountains.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Works to collaborate with other Departments as necessary and provide a report back in 60 days that includes:

1. Data on usage of the recreation areas located in the San Gabriel Mountains both before and during the pandemic, including data on weekend usage and Adventure Pass usage in order to support traffic estimates. Public Works should partner directly with the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies as needed to obtain this data;
2. Recent traffic and collision data and emergency response incidents on roads in the San Gabriel Mountains and on major roads that connect the Foothill Cities with recreational resources located in the San Gabriel Mountains. Public Works should seek collaboration from the cities, the California Highway Patrol U.S. Forest Service, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, local police departments and other parties as appropriate to ensure a comprehensive dataset is captured;
3. Recommended improvements to enhance the safety and cleanliness of the roadways identified in the above directive in order to address increased traffic,

- speeding, racing, reckless driving, and other unsafe activities taking place in the San Gabriel Mountains. Public Works should consider a range of improvements including striping modifications, rumble strips, permanent changeable signs in appropriate locations, and other traffic safety devices; and
4. Recommendations to enhance access to emergency response services and towing services in the San Gabriel Mountains in consideration of the rural nature of mountain roadways and limited mobile phone signal.

#

HLS:mr